the ruin, but outside a radius of ten to twelve miles from Kingston the loss to property is small. That, in its initial power, the earthquake was inferior to those of Valparaiso and San Francisco is clear from the smallness of the region that was severely disturbed, and also from the comparatively slight disturbances recorded at Shide, Edinburgh, and other far-distant seismic observatories.

Mr. Charles Davison, formerly Secretary of the British Association's Earth Tremors Committee, calls attention in the *London Times* (weekly edition, January 25, 1907) to the fact that the foundation of Kingston consists of beds of sand and gravel, brought down from the northern mountains. It is on ground of this kind that earthquake shocks attain their maximum intensity. At Charleston in 1886, and at San Francisco last year, the greatest damage was done on made land filling up old creeks or low-lying ground. During the Tokio earthquake of 1894 the range and intensity of the disturbance, as measured from seismographic records, were about twice as great on low, soft ground as on the hard chalk rock in the higher part of the city. Mr. Davison adds:

> Almost the whole boundary of the Caribbean Sea is a band in intermittent motion . . . Jamaica is situated in the very position in which great earthquakes are to be expected, in which the ocean-bed shelves with great rapidity, not on one side alone, as in most earthquake-countries, but to the north even more steeply than to the south. San Francisco, Columbia, and Valparaiso are all situated on the margin of a great slope, while near the east coast of Japan lies one of the deepest regions of the globe.

He urges that, if Kingston is rebuilt on its present site, it may again be visited by great earthquakes, and that their effects will be all the more serious on account of the low-lying position of the town and the loose and friable nature of its foundation. There is no other harbour in the island to compare with the extensive haven between Kingston and Port Royal, and the new town will certainly not be far distant from its shores.

NAMES OF TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES IN THE UNITED STATES.

The names applied to many of our most conspicuous geographical features, such as the Rocky Mountains, the Appalachians, and others, have not been used uniformly to cover exactly the same areas. Inexactness and confusion naturally resulted from the fact that there had been no authoritative decisions as to the extent of the regions to which these various names applied.

The United States Geographic Board, about the middle of last

year, sent a list of questions to many American geographers and geologists in the expectation that their advice would be of much value in deciding these problems of nomenclature. On February 6, the Board announced decisions with regard to twenty-two of these names and in nearly every case the decision was the result of a consensus of opinion among the persons consulted.

Following is the list of these decisions as sent to the Society by the Board. A few explanatory comments by the BULLETIN are printed under some of the decisions in smaller type:

CORDILLERAS.—The entire western mountain system of North America.

Some geographers have not favoured the use of any single name, while others have advocated "Western Highlands," etc.

ROCKY MOUNTAINS.—The ranges of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming Colorado, New Mexico, and western Texas.

This excludes the Wasatch and Uinta mountains of Utah which have often been referred to as part of the Rocky Mountains, but the majority of geographers agree that they may better be included among the Basin Ranges.

PLATEAU REGION.—The plateaus of the Colorado River and its branches, limited on the east by the Rocky Mountains, and on the west by the Wasatch Range, and extending from the south end of the Wasatch southwestward to Virgin River and down that river to its mouth; thence southeastward and eastward to the east boundary of Arizona, following the escarpment of the Colorado Plateau, and including on the north the Green River Basin.

BASIN RANGES.—All those lying between the Plateau Region on the east, the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range on the west, and the Blue Mountains of Oregon on the north, including the Wasatch Range.

PACIFIC RANGES.—The Cascade Range, the Sierra Nevada, and the Coast Ranges collectively.

SIERRA NEVADA.—Limited on the north by the gap south of Lassen Peak, and on the south by Tehachipi Pass.

The Sierra Nevada has commonly been treated as extending practically to the northern boundary of California. This decision places the northern end of the Sierra Nevada about 120 miles further south and adds the mountains from Lassen Peak north to the Cascade Range. Geographers practically agree that structurally it is correct to place the north end of the Sierra Nevada at the gap south of Lassen Peak. Lassen Peak is the most southerly of the series of volcanic peaks which characterize the south part of lhe Cascade Range. The Atchison and Santa Fé R.R. passes through Tehachipi Pass, now fixed as the south end of the Sierra Nevada.

CASCADE RANGE—Limited on the south by the gap south of Lassen Peak, and extending northward into British Columbia.

COAST RANGES—Extend northward into Canada and southward into Lower California. They include everything west of Puget

Sound and the Willamette, Sacramento, and San Joaquin valleys, and southwest of the Mohave Desert.

There have been wide differences of opinion concerning the north end of the Coast Ranges, but most geographers agree in extending them over into Canada. They are low in Oregon and in southwest Washington. As to the south end of the Coast Ranges geographers seem to be generally agreed that the Ranges should include all those of southern California and down into the peninsula of Lower California.

The following nine decisions fix the extent of several ranges and groups of mountains under the names given:

BITTERROOT RANGE—Extends from Clarks Fork on the northwest to Monida, the crossing of the Oregon Short Line on the southeast, including all spurs.

MISSION RANGE—The range east and southeast of Flathead Lake, Montana.

The easternmost range which carries the Continental divide has recently been named the Lewis Range.

WASATCH RANGE—Includes on the north the Bear River Range, extending to the bend of Bear River at Soda Springs, Idaho, and on the south extending to the mouth of the San Pete River.

SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS—Include all the mountains of southwest Colorado south of Gunnison River, west of San Luis Valley, and east of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad.

SACRAMENTO—Includes those groups known as Jicarilla, Sierra Blanca, Sacramento, and Guadalupe.

SALMON RIVER MOUNTAINS—Include the group in central Idaho lying south of main Salmon River, west of Lemhi River, north of Snake River, and east of the valley of Weiser River.

BLUE MOUNTAINS—Include all the mountains of northeastern Oregon and extending into Washington to the bend of Snake River, with the exception of the Wallowa Mountains.

The Wallowa Mountains are separated from the Blue Mountains by a wide gap and apparently have no connection with them.

SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS—The range extends from Poncha Pass, Colorado, to the neighborhood of Santa Fé, New Mexico, thus including the southern portion locally known as the Culebra Range.

FRONT RANGE—Includes on the north the Laramie Range as far as the crossing of the North Platte, and on the south includes the Pikes Peak Group.

There is a general agreement concerning both the north and south limits of the Front Range of Colorado. On the north, the Laramie is a direct continuation, although much lower. The range drops into a broken country east of South Park, and then rises again in the Pikes Peak Group.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS—Includes all the eastern mountains of the United States from Alabama to northern Maine.

BLUE RIDGE—Includes the ridge extending from a few miles north of Harpers Ferry to northern Georgia.

APPALACHIAN PLATEAU—Includes the entire plateau forming the western member of the Appalachian Mountain System, known in the north as the Allegheny Plateau and in the south as the Cumberland Plateau.

The difficulty in using either "Cumberland" or "Alleghany" for the entire plateau is that the application of the word would be misleading. The name Appalachian Plateau is therefore adopted to include both parts.

OZARK PLATEAU—Is applied to the plateau in northwestern Arkansas and southern Missouri.

OUACHITA MOUNTAINS—Applied to the ridges of Western Arkansas south of the Arkansas River, Indian Territory, and Oklahoma.

No name has hitherto been applied generally to these crooked and broken ridges south of the Arkansas River and in the southern part of the Indian Territory.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AFRICA.

THE CAPE TO CAIRO RAILWAY.—Sir Charles Metcalfe, in charge of the construction of the Cape to Cairo railway, who is temporarily in England, says that regular train service is now maintained between Cape Town and Broken Hill in northeast Rhodesia, 2,100 miles. New rolling stock worth $750,000 has been ordered. The survey of the railway from Broken Hill to the Congo border at Bwana Mcubwa, 110 miles, has been completed, and the line will probably go northward to Constansie, a further distance of about 200 miles, thus traversing a large part of the Katanga mining region. The copper properties on the Congo frontier and at Constansie are being steadily developed and give signs of profit. The one bright spot in South Africa at present is South Rhodesia, where the farmers are doing well, a good deal of fresh ground has been put into grain and tobacco, and the increase of live stock has been very satisfactory.

PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF UGANDA.—In their indigenous culture, and, still more, in their exceptional power of assimilating European civilization, the people of Uganda are unique in this part of Africa, and probably in the whole continent. When discovered by Europeans, they had a social system culminating in a king and an elaborate court, and comprising nobles, middle classes, and peasants. They built cities and constructed roads, two things which are conspicuously absent in other parts of East Africa. From the first their readiness to receive European instruction, both religious and other, was remarkable.

Though it is less than thirty years since the first missions were established in the country, nearly all the inhabitants are nominal Christians, and large numbers can read and write. A native parliament has been instituted, and native courts of justice. It is true that some of the laws are rather strange, and considerable discussion has been provoked by an enactment fixing the price of all wives at 13s. 4d., whatever their